

K-247

Mowbray Chapel

Chestertown

Mowbray Chapel, a long-abandoned building is in ruinous condition, is one of the few true Greek Revival structures in Kent County. Although simple in design it has a well-proportioned gabled facade, a generous and elegant interior space and handsome interior trim. Located on Quaker Neck Road 2 miles southwest of Johnsontown Road, it is a one-story structure with its main entry in the northern gable and a projecting alter at its southern gable. Three bays in length, its single interior room is lighted by very large 12 over 12 double hung windows. The Chapel was constructed by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a companion to Bond Chapel (K-28) nearby. Following a fire in 1889, it was rebuilt in 1890. Along with the Cliffs School (K-309), Mowbray Chapel served a focus for social activity for the community, Cliffs, and nearby farms.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mowbray Chapel, Walton Chapel

and/or common Mowbray Chapel

2. Location

street & number S.E. side Quaker Neck Rd. 2 miles SW of Johnstown Rd. not for publication
Quaker Neck Road

city, town Chestertown, ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland 21620 county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name River Farms Inc.

street & number 76 Eastern Loop Road telephone no.:

city, town Staten Island state and zip code New York, 10304

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 114

street & number folio 116

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-247

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Mowbray Chapel is a one-story brick structure with its main entry in the northern gable and a projecting altar at its southern gable. Three bays in length, its single interior room is lighted by very large 12 over 12 double-hung windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-247

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Mowbray Chapel, a long-abandoned building in ruinous condition, is one of the few true Greek Revival structures in Kent County. Although simple in design it has a well- proportioned gable facade, a generous and elegant interior space, and handsome interior trim. The Chapel was constructed by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a companion to the Bond Chapel (K280) nearby. Following a fire in 1889, it was rebuilt in 1890. Along with the Cliffs School (K-309) nearby, it served a focus for social activity for the nearby community called Cliffs (or Cliffs City) and nearby farms.

Survey No. K-247

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CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

BUILDING FORM AND MATERIAL

1. Size
Main Section: 1 story, 1 bay wide, 3 bays deep
2. Plan type
Main Section: Rectangular room (see drawing) with projecting chancel at southern gable.
3. Roof type
Main Section: Shallow gable with shed at chancel.
4. Chimney(s)
Location(s): 2, between 1st and 2nd bay on each side
Materials: Parged brick, short, used for stoves
Decorative elements: Tall, handsome, yellowish clay, chimney pots.
5. Material/Walls
Main Section: Brick, ransom running, small bright orange bricks with untooled joints
Bays and corners demarcated with plain brick pilasters; capitals are wood
6. Material/Roofs
Main Section: wood shingle
7. Material/Foundation
Main Section: Brick (no water table)
8. Age
Main Section: Circa 1865; rebuilt 1890, Mowbray Chapel closely resembles other Greek Revival buildings in Kent County, all built in the 1850's. Bond Chapel (K-280) is a sister church built in 1851. A marble corner stone at Mowbray Chapel, probably with a date, has been defaced.
9. Style- Vernacular Greek Revival. Although smaller, this building is probably similar to Bond Chapel before its later alterations.

BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1. Doors
Main Entry: Main entry centered in northern gable; its original 44" double doors have been removed. It retains its bold architrave trim with 11-light transom, molded transom bar and paneled 3-light side lights. Greek o.g. & bevel moldings are used on both interior & major exterior trim. Granite sill and step.
Secondary Entries: Southwest rear corner. A single 4-panel door with sand stone step. See drawing
2. Windows
Main Section: type- double hung, very large, splayed jambs inside.
Lights - 12/12 with clear glass

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

details - Splayed gauged brick flat arches outside; large plain wooden sills, large bead frame. Interior trim wider than that illustrated below but same backband and bead used.

shutters - Hinges remain throughout. Narrow louvered shutters on 4/4 windows at sides of chancel.

NOTE: Windows into crawl space have nice cast iron grilles

3. Dormers: None

4. Roof Details

Main Section: front gable: Cornice and 30" return have flattish composite crown and bed moldings and an 8" fascia attached to the top of the brick walls
Rear Gable: is simpler with a molded verge board. The chancel roof is finished with a very large (ca8") cyma reversa, an unusual molding.

5. Porches - None

6. Color: Current - Trim- pale ochre Brick - reddish orange
Historic - Trim appears to be original. 1924-25--last recorded date of painting entire interior and exterior trim.

7. Other: This is a very beautiful, gracefully proportioned building which is one of the least altered Greek Revival Churches in Kent County.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type- A single room with a recessed, raised altar with a chancel rail.

2. Major Stair- None

(altar) A handsome architrave or Greek revival moldings about 11" wide at jambs; top of altar opening 10'9" from floor

3. Major Mantles - The building was heated with a stove. Chancel Rail: Turned Balusters

4. Major Trim

Windows/doors - Very bold interior window & door trim. See illustration. Windows have splayed jambs.

Baseboards - A Greek o.g. & bevel molding at the base of the wainscating

Cornices - A greek o.g. and bevel about 2½" in height.

Chair Rails - 1 wainscoting- simple board/ with Greek o.g. molding; vertical beaded boarding.

5. Major Doors - 4 panel doors with 1¾" Greek og and bevel panel moldings.

6. Floors - Medium width random yellow pine, unfinished

7. Walls/ceiling finishes - plaster walls and yellow pine beaded board ceiling (the original Walton Chapel was papered in 1889)

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major outbuildings:

A. Original use - kitchen, church hall Form - gable roofed
Material - Frame, collapsing

CONTINUATION SHEET

.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Construction system - modern construction system

2. Site description - Set near the south side of Quaker Neck Road, the Chapel is surrounded by woodlands. It faces an open field and has a view of ?
3. Views to/from site -

USE OF BUILDING

1. Current: vacant
Historic: church

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

The parcel where Mowbray Chapel stands was purchased by the board of trustees of the M. E. Church on February 24, 1864 (JKH 4/218) for the purpose of erecting a "house or place of worship". Presumably a building was constructed soon thereafter. Fragmentary information about the history of Mowbray Chapel is now in the possession of Bond Chapel, Pomona, which was part of the same charge as Mowbray Chapel. Originally called Walton Chapel, the church faced an uncertain future in 1882, when there was no longer a congregation. Later in the 80's however, services resumed though in 1889, the Sunday School was disbanded. On October 6, 1889, the church was "destroyed by fire" during a revival, and services hereafter were held at the Cliffs School (K-309). Under the leadership of the energetic minister appointed to the charge in March 1889, W.R. Mowbray, Hynson's Chapel (at Baker's Lane and Langford - Sandy Bottom Rd.), unused for at least ten years, was granted to the Walton congregation. It is not known to what extent Walton Chapel was damaged or destroyed or what elements used in the rebuilding besides bricks came from Hynson Chapel. It is likely that destruction was total except perhaps for the foundation. The new church may have been a reconstruction of the old one, which may explain the Greek Revival style at such a late date. Or it may have followed the form of Bond Chapel (K-280) or Hynson's Chapel, whose style is now not known.

Work began in 1890 on the new church, with the father of the minister as one of the mason constructors. The pastor himself did the lathing and plaster work. The total cash outlay was \$970.00; much material and labor was donated. Dedicated July 20, 1890, the church was then named in honor of the minister, W.R. Mowbray. In 1893, church records note, a stable was fully paid for. This may be the structure in ruinous condition to the Southeast of the church, but most likely it was the Church hall, used especially for festivals and suppers.

The church was declared abandoned and the land sold in 1963 (EHP 3/224).

1. STATE Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
COUNTY Kent		INVENTORY K-247	
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Quaker Neck		2. NAME Mowbray M.E. Chapel	
STREET NO. Md. 289, 8 miles south of Chestertown		DATE OR PERIOD 1890	
ORIGINAL OWNER		STYLE Greek Revival	
ORIGINAL USE religious		ARCHITECT	
PRESENT OWNER Roy Ruhnka parcel 150		BUILDER	
PRESENT USE vacant		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick			
NO. OF STORIES 1			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO			
<p>Mowbray Chapel is a small deserted brick building which had its corner stone laid in 1890. It is three bays deep and has a central door on its gable with double doors, transom and sidelights. There are pilasters at the corners and between the windows on the sides, also of brick. On the gable opposite the door is a lean-to with windows in the sides for the sanctuary. There is a single door on the south side of the east gable.</p> <p>Above the windows are flat brick arches. At ground level are vents with cast iron grates covering the openings. The entire structure is laid in common bond. There is a very heavy wood fascia at the cornice and there are returns above the corner pilasters.</p> <p>Most of the interior furniture is still in place but in poor condition. In the center of each side wall is a brick chimney which is capped with a chimney pot after it pierces the roof.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered yes Interior poor Exterior fair			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne	
		DATE OF RECORD Oct. 12, 1968	

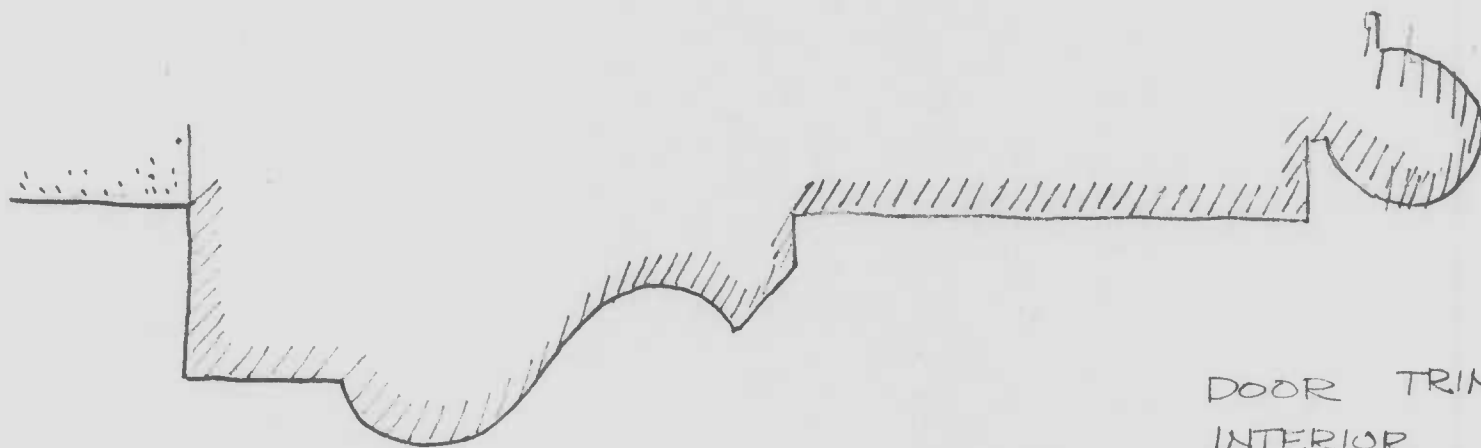
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chester town</u> VICINITY <u>Quaker Neck</u> STREET NO. <u>Rt 289 S. of Chester town.</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-247</u>	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>Religious</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>M. E. Chapel</u> PRESENT USE <u>Vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1</u>		2. NAME <u>Mowbray M.E. Chapel</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1890</u> STYLE <u>Greek Revival</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>			
<p>Mowbray Chapel is a small deserted brick building which had its cornerstone laid in 1890. It is 3 bays deep and has a central door on its gable with double doors, transom + sidelights. There are pilasters at the corners and between the windows on the sides. On the gable opposite the door is a dentil with window in the sides for the sanctuary. There is a single door on the gable.</p> <p>There are flat arches over the windows and dents at ground level with cast iron grates covering them. The brick is laid in common bond throughout. There is heavy wood fascia, oiled + returns at the pilasters.</p> <p>Most of the interior furniture is in place but in poor condition. On each side is a chin with the side wall having a chimney pot.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>yes</u> Interior <u>poor</u> Exterior <u>fair -</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct 12, 1968</u>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

ST. 1. A



DOOR TRIM

INTERIOR

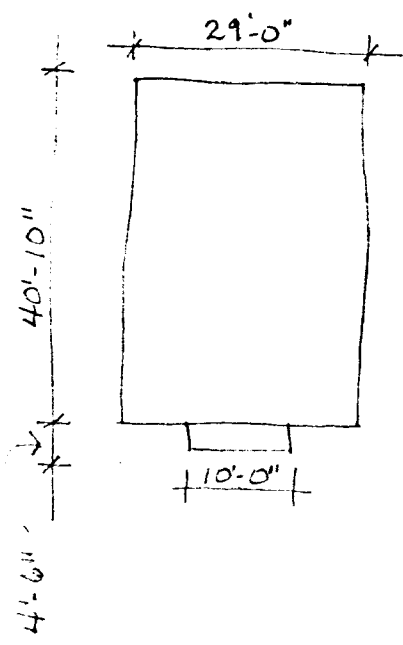
MOWBRAY CHAPEL

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QUAKER NECK ROAD



BRICK WALL THICKNESS - 14"

- NO SCALE -

M. LEBITZ

4/81

MONBRAY CHAPEL

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Mowbray Methodist Chapel

Rt. 289, Quaker Neck, near Chestertown

M. Q. Fallaw - 3/29/86

View to east



K-247.9

K-247

Mowbray Methodist Chapel

Rt. 289, Quaker Neck, near Chestertown

M. Q. Fallaw - 3/29/86

View to southeast